

SOME ARE SIMPLY THE SCUM OF THE EARTH

NO RESPECT FOR VICTIM, WRITES TED BROWN



TED BROWN
Column

Sometimes I read a news item and I'm struck with complete, utter disbelief at some people's actions.

The most recent example centres on the murder of three people in British Columbia, and their alleged killers' escape across western Canada, until their bodies were found in the wilds of Manitoba last week.

The Manitoba RCMP discovered their bodies after spotting an abandoned boat in the river - a boat that the suspects might have used as a means of escape.

It's an understatement to say Canadians everywhere breathed a collective sigh of relief when the news story broke that the boat had been located, and even more so that the bodies of the two suspects were found nearby.

But the part that blows me away?

Soon after, someone posted an ad on Kijiji trying to sell a boat, claiming it was the one found nearby - except for one thing - it wasn't the boat.

It was "similar" to the one that was found - which, for the record, is still in the possession of the Manitoba RCMP.

Someone was trying to make a quick buck - actually, \$5,000 - selling a boat said to have been used in the getaway from three killings, in spite of the fact it wasn't even the boat.

And if it were the actual boat, that's disgusting, too, creating a "celebrity" status for an object suspected to have been used, after the fact, in homicides.

After the story hit the media, and it was made clear by the RCMP that it was not the actual boat, the ad was quickly taken down.

But the actions still remain: who is that crass that they would try to sell a boat associated with a homicide? And who would even want to own the boat?

There are some pretty unethical people out there. And they sicken me.

This misrepresentation of a "celebrity" object is nothing new. It's been happening for years and has become more prolific with the popularity of the internet.

Items have popped up over the years that were featured in movies, like the Mustang from the Steve McQueen movie Bullitt that remained hidden for nearly 50 years. The shell of the second Bullitt Mustang was found a few years back, and it was proven to be legitimate.

But with that story, opportunists were quick to step in and tried to sell the Dodge Charger from the movie that they claimed to be 100 per cent authentic. One problem - it wasn't the actual vehicle - just another

scam.

Then there was "Wilson," the volleyball from the Tom Hanks movie Cast Away.

Countless fakes have been sold since the 2000 movie, but the original was actually purchased at auction by the CEO of FedEx.

Once in a while I see a story on TV how some student paid cash for a smartphone to someone in a coffee shop, led to believe that it's a brand-new, super-duper model. I know I sure wouldn't cough up \$1,000 cash for anything in a coffee shop!

For those who do fall victim to a swindler, and end up losing a wad of money on some scam, well, I truly can't feel sorry for them.

And the fact that some would pursue purchasing some macabre item from a homicide for their "collection" speaks volumes about their own ethical values.

Those on the other end of the equation who are trying to sell off something that was actually associated with a tragic or horrific event - well, they are simply crass and show absolutely no respect for the emotions and feelings of the families of the victims.

And the fact that the item is not even authentic and is simply a ploy to rip off some unsuspecting target - well, they're nothing less than the scum of the earth.

Ted Brown is a freelance journalist for the IFP. He can be contacted at tedbit@hotmail.com.

THE WAY WE WERE



EHS photo

This 1956 photo shows the inauguration of natural gas in Georgetown. Celebrating the occasion were (from left) Mary Beihn, Delma Heslop, Walter Gray, John D. Kelly, Ruth Allen, foreman Len Ward, Edna and Mayor John T. Armstrong and Reeve Stan Allen.

SUMMER'S ALMOST DONE, LAST CHANCE FOR FUN?



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